WENDELL POST

Vol.1/No.8 December+January 1977-78 25¢

Tax Reduction Overturned

The Special Town Meeting, January 17, dramatically reversed a decision made at the 1977 Annual Town Meeting. With eleven voters present, an article to reduce the tax rate for fiscal year '78 was defeated.

At Annual Town Meeting last spring an article was passed 27 yes, 12 no, which requested that "extra monies collected as tax revenue be applied directly to the 1977 tax rate." Although the intent of the voters at Annual Town Meeting had clearly been shown, the article was not binding due to incorrect wording. The article should have read "...1978 tax rate.' For this reason, the article to reduce the tax rate through use of extra tax revenue collected last year was again presented at the Special Town Meeting.

The $40,000 in question will now remain in Free Cash to be used for emergency or "unanticipated" expenditures. The total sum in Free Cash is now $63,822.00.

Historically, Free Cash has been spent at Special Town Meetings.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Art. 1. Vote to transfer a sum of money ($3,700.00) from the Road Machinery Earnings Account to the Road Machinery Maintenance & Operation Account. carried unanimously

Art. 2. Vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money ($500.00) for the Miscellaneous Account. carried unnanimously

Art. 3. Vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money for Group Hospital, Medical, Surgical and Life Insurance.($1,200.00) carried unanimously

continued on page 3

Rt. 2 Turned Back

The National Wildlife Federation has joined in the controversy over the Rt. 2 extension project. The Washington, D.C. headquarters of the NWF stated "The whole rationale for the road is in question.", and that it would be unlawful to continue with the plan and the road should not be built.

The Wildlife Federation plans to fight the State DPW as long as necessary. The route for the extension has been thrown back and forth from Wendell to Erving and back at least once in the past year.

Now, the Wildlife Federation claims there is little justification for the $12 million road in the first place. The foliage season is the time the road is most congested. If the South Bank route were built it would "destroy the reason for making the foliage trip in the first place," according to the Federation's letter to the DPW. The relationship of the proposed section to the rest of the 81 mi. highway has not been made clear, and closer analysis may justify the No-Build alternative.

Wednesday, Feb. 1, parties concerned will meet at the DPW office in Boston. County official, Erving and Wendell Selectmen, representatives of the Wildlife Federation, and the State Dept. of Environmental Management have been invited to attend.

Taken from an article by
Michael Gery, Greenfield Recorder
1/28/78

Happy New Year

From The Staff

During the course of our publication since April, some questions have come our way that we thought might interest our readership.

1. Who publishes the Wendell Post?
2. What does it cost to publish the newspaper?
3. Why does the paper come out irregularly?
4. Why are there inaccuracies in the reporting?
5. Why do we publish the Wendell Post?

The following answers should clear up a few of the misconceptions we have heard rumored about the Wendell Post. They should point out why we would like more reporters to help spread out the work.

1. The Wendell Post is produced by volunteers. Several of the workers have participated in every issue, many people have made one-time offerings. Each type of effort has an important part in the survival of the newspaper.
2. The cost of printing an issue is $50.00, give or take a few dollars. This is our primary cash outlay. Currently we take in enough from ads and sales to cover this cost. Now we have a few dollars left over to save for a typewriter. The major expenditure is labor. It costs a total 150-200 hours of labor to gather, type, layout, and distribute each issue. Most of the people who provide this labor work full-time at other jobs.
3. Beside garden variety procrastination, refer to items (1) and (2) above. As we have said in the past, we would like to publish twice a month, but that is not reasonable. We do regret our unpredictable appearance and any inconvenience it involves. We do try to do better.
4. We work hard to avoid mistakes, typographical and otherwise. Several controversial articles have been killed because we could not back up any of the conflicting claims. Readers can help by writing to us to correct errors.
5. To help ourselves we must know.. what is going on in our town. There are an amazing number of things going on in our town. The staff has learned a great deal about how this town works, and that has been fun.

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Letter to Post

Gentlemen:

In view of last year's power black out in Wendell and Buffalo, New York's tragic blizzard I am suggesting that the Board of Selectmen request the civil defense director to conduct a survey to determine the individual preparedness of all residents to deal with a power-out under heavy winter conditions. In addition, an inventory of all emergency transportation and auxiliary communication systems from public and private sources within the town.

With this basic information, a plan can be devised that would insure that help and safety were available to all in an extreme winter emergency. In all probability every thing that would be needed is already within the town. Many of the fatalities that occured in Buffalo were because they were unprepared, not unequipped.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration. I will be present at the Selectmens meeting to hear your opinions.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth Simos

Ken Simos explained that this note was sent to the Selectmen and forwarded to Vic Coy, C.D. Director. Mr. Simos said that at the very least he was hoping to get the town hall for a comfort station during a power blackout like last winter's.

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WENDELL POST

Vol. 1 Issue 8

This issues staff:

Kathy Becker	Michael Idoine
Lewis Becker	Robin Pierce
Annie Diemand	

Contributers:

David Cohen	Pat Judice
Myron Becker	Penny Ricketts
Elsie Diemand	David White

Please send all manuscripts, photos, letters to:

Wendell Post
Box 113
Wendell Mass. 01379

or call Annie Diemand at 544-2762

David Barnes and Beth Jewett of New Salem get a helping hand from pottery instructor, Lyn Harrod, of Shutesbury.

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Warrant cont.

Art. 4 Vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money ($150.00) for street lights. carried unanimously.

Art. 5. Vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money for Board of Registrars Expenses. ($300.00) carried unanimously.

Art. 6. Vote to allow the Assessors to use a sum of money from available funds to reduce the fiscal year 1978 Tax Rate, or take any action thereon. ($40,000.00) Not carried. 4 yes, 6 no, 1 abstained.

Art. 7. Transact any other legal business.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 P.M.

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Interview with Don Ellis

Two Wendell Post staffers, Anne Diemand and Myron Becker, met recently with Don Ellis one evening in the Selectman's office in the Wendell Town Hall for a tape recorded interview. The following story is excerpts from that conversation.

Don Ellis offered his first statement hesitantly, "you know, it's hard. Anything you say you hurt somebody else somewhere along the line. The only thing is, whatever you bring up, somebody else thinks you're wrong, see.

He volunteered a unique perspective on change in Wendell. The biggest thing that ever changed this town was the power house down to the Wendell Depot, when that went out in 1938. That paid 70% of the taxes for the whole town. That from the dam across the Millers and the powerhouse that was there. That was right down the left side as you cross the R.R. tracks. The '38 flood took that out. We were down there, Jack and I see it, and two houses went down over the bank, two that washed right over the dam...They claim they can't afford to run 'em no more. Couldn't put out enough electricity. See, it don't back up enough water there to get the power, so they claim, I don't know.

As far as other major changes that have taken place, he feels, "Well, the living conditions are updated 100%. Economics are better. Years ago people went to town once a week Some people didn't go all winter. They would go and get a bag of flour, bag o' sugar, and cloth to make clothes, and they stayed home all winter, the women did...I can remember when some of them worked at Rodney Hunt's and walked back and forth. They used to walk to New Salem Academy. In the early thirties there were 8 or 9 cars in town, and 2 trucks. At that time they were rolling the roads with a pair of horses. Then, later on, they bought a tractor with a V plow and they used to plow the roads. About once a week they'd get around the town. Nobody really cared. Of course, I was young, I don't remember that much but I don't know of anybody that worked out of town then. A lot of them in the summertime there would be 30-35 working on the town roads about 3 days a week each. And a lot of them worked in the lumber mills, steam mills. That was at a buck eighty a day. If you look at the Town Report, most of 'em were paying 6-10 dollars for taxes a year. A lot of them worked off their taxes. "

cont. pg. 4

Ellis from page 3

Asked what he felt was the major growth causing factor, Don replied "The University".

"What do you see is the major effect of growth?", queried the Post.

"It's tripled the Tax rate for one thing".

"How do you see controlling that?"

"Cut down on the spending. You got to cut every area a little."

As far as the possibility of limiting growth, Don felt, "According to the State, you can't."..."The people don't seem to go along with it. And the trouble is that now you've got a higher tax rate, there's more people selling an acre or two, when they get a chance, to pay their taxes. But I think it's (growth) slowed up this last year considerably. Money is got tighter."..."You know yourself I never hoped to see the Town as big as this."

When asked "What do you think is the impact of the so called new people in town? I know that is a loaded question.", Don Ellis chuckled and answered sparingly, "Change of times."

"One thing that has hurt the town", Don explained, "is that the State has cut back on reimbursements on roads, schools, and school transportation, but they're handing out the same money in other ways, same as CETA, oh all those jobs, you know what they are."..."The one thing that we could have used that we didn't get was the tax map. I think they would have come up with a lot of land that hasn't been assessed."

Don would not say whether he would run for a third term as Selectman, but he would say that he had always enjoyed the job. "But it is time consuming." The Post wondered about it being a thankless job. "Oh, yes it is", Don agreed. "Of course decent people are easy to satify, and the other people you couldn't ever satisfy anyway."

"So, Don, you don't want to say whether you'll run again?"

"Too early to tell."

"Too early to tell?"

"Yes."

Concerning rules being made by far away urban Boston, Don had this to say: "I think each town should take care of their own problems. It (state laws) seems to be real flexible. Its your local officials that control it. (The enforcement of laws) One law seems to supercede another. They (the state) tell you what you got to do, and then it keeps breaking down. You can get away with most anything now."

Asked if he could offer any words of wisdom, Don responded, "It's really hard to say. No need to run the school down. We've got it. We've got to live with it. We've got a police dept., a fire dept., a highway dept., and the only thing we can do is try to keep it in line with what we can afford. We've got a tax rate of course, and that's what really gets me. They claim the next bills we're going to get are going to make the last one look cheap. We've got a tax rate now of New York City, and nothing to show for it, that's my opinion. And no need of being."

"People in the last 10 yrs. seem to depend on somebody else to vote something down or to be conservative at town meeting."

"You see, the trouble is, to get people to work for you, you can't condemn them in public.

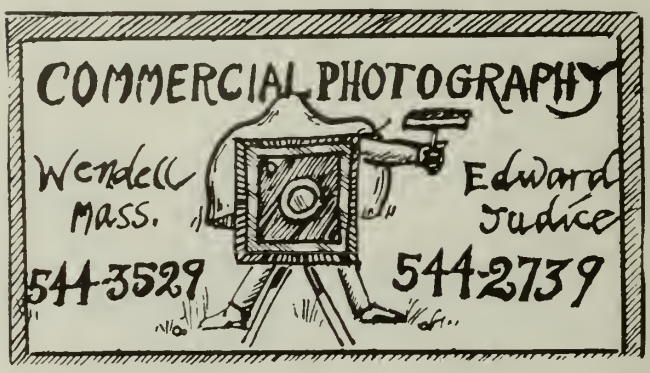
"I don't care, I still believe a finance committee would be a great thing for this town. But you can't get anybody that's no more interested in it than they are a snow storm."

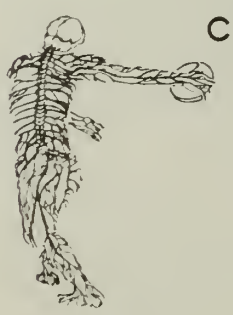
The Post asked Don about the direction of the Town. Said Ellis, "Well, the town always used to be slit in half. Now there is a lot of directions. As far as the relationships in the town, I think that more people speak to each other than they used to thirty years ago."

"When the families weren't speaking to each other?" asked the Post.

"Well, something like that", chuckled Don.

About the Wendell Post, Don had this to say: Well, it's all right, I quess. The trouble with anything, is, like I could tell you more stuff than you could listen to in a week, but you always burn somebody's ears, see."





CHIROPRACTIC

John Pratt, D.C.

77 Mohawk Trail
Greenfield, Mass.
Phone (413) 773-3280

Selectmen's Minutes

Nov. 29, 1977

The Board signed two licenses for Ballou's Store: (1) to sell anti-freeze and (2) to sell groceries, candy, soda, ice cream and to serve light lunches 7 days a week.

Discussed setting a Special Town Meeting in the near future.

Discussed water problems on Wickett Pond Road, Dump Hill and Poters Pond area.

David Bardsley went back to work on Monday.

The Board requested the clerk to post vacancies in Town Offices.

Dec. 6, 1977

The Board reviewed a letter from C.E.T.A. that stated that they will be accepting Title VI Special Employment Projects. There will be a meeting on this on Monday, Dec. 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenfield Town Hall.

Paul McOwen came to ask for the second time to have the Town plow his road - Old Farley Road, the portion that was accepted a few years ago without maintenance.

Dec. 13, 1977

The Board signed Treasurer Margaret Simos' bond.

Deputy Sheriff Ernest Allen came to draw two names for jury service. One Grand Jury - Donald R. Collins, One Traverse Jury - Carol Carey for January.

Approved license for Gibbs Store.

Peggy Simos asked the Board several questions about her new position.

Kathy Becker asked for the Hall on Wednesdays for the winter for the Library to run movies. Three months - January thru March. Permission granted.

Anne Diemand asked for the Hall for Dec. 30th for a benefit dance for the Wendell Post. Permission granted. Dance 7 - 10.

Myron Becker requested that a list of reminders for the Town Hall Users be posted.

Dec. 20, 1977

Discussed Special Town Meeting. Set date of Jan. 17, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. Phoned Anny Hartjens and Emma Cappellupzo to confirm the date. Both parties said the date was okay.

Read the mail.

Mr. Simos discussed with the Board, ideas for emergency preparedness. The Board suggested that he also bring his ideas to the Civil Defense Director.

Joe Diemand requested a renewal of license for junk yard.

Dec. 27,1977

Thomas Bardsley has requested the open Dog Officers position.

The Board received Ken Simos' letter concerning his thoughts on emergency preparedness during the winter.

The mail was read.

The Board approved a Class III Motor Vehicle License for Kenneth Wing - Hilltop Auto Wrecking.

Discussed articles for upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Jan. 3, 1978

Thomas Bardsley applied in person for the Dog Officer's position. Appointed.

Ed Chase requested the appointment of Ken Wing as a Special Police Officer for special service at the Town Dump.

Approved a Class III Junk Dealers License for Mormon Hollow Auto - Joseph A. Diemand.

Jan. 10, 1978

The Board signed a Dog Restraining order for the year 1978.

Discussed road problems with Road Surveyor David Bardsley. There are a number of serious ice problems.

Discussed the upcoming budget with the Planning Board Chairman.

Voted to have a notice to the effect : NO PARKING on the side of ALL roads, year round.

Jan. 17, 1978

The Board discussed the Traffic Rules and Orders as they pertain to NO PARKING on Town roads.

The meeting recessed at 7:25 for a Special Town Meeting. The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and because of the weather it was recessed until next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The Board discussed the problems on the New Salem Road. The Board called David Bardsley to question the progress on the New Salem Road near Stones. It should be finished weather permitting by tomorrow.

In Which We Visit Wendell and Slide Down Hill

We had been told that "Bellew's folks" or "Blue's folks" (we really couldn't quite make it out), up at Wendell, might take us in for the night. "It's the big house as you go into town." they said, and we pictured Wendell as a spread-out and populous village.

The Wendell of fact comprises perhaps a dozen dwellings, a meetinghouse, schoolhouse and Town Hall, all placed around a big treeless rectangular green. In the Summertime, we imagine, this place must have many compensations, for it is on the top most ridge of a rising country, some 1200 feet above the sea, with views for miles in every direction. But in Winter, with snow upon the hills, it is a very symbol of isolation.

We picked the biggest house of all, and thumped upon the door.

It was a child that answered.

"Is your mother at home?" we asked.

"No," said she.

"Um," said we, turning away to look around the square. "And is there a store here, little girl?"

"Over there," said she, indicating with a nod, and then closing the door, for it was coming on bitterly cold.

Were it not for the gas station we never should have found the store, tacked on, as it is, to the rear of one of the dwellings.

Said the proprietor: "It used to be a carriage house. The old store was across the way . . . but it was slipping . . . and then it went out entirely. I bought the stock at auction, and this is what's left of it."

"It's a pretty lively place," said he, smiling, and looking out the window upon the deserted Common. Then he added, reminiscently: "Wendell's slipping."

"Population fallen off much?" we asked.

"O, no," said he. "This place has been the same the last 50 years, I guess."

"How many here?"

"Well," said he, pausing to raise the cover of the stove, which served also as a cuspidor, "I guess if you rang the fire bell you might get out 25."

It was dark now, but though we might have got lodging, we chose to go on. It was freezing. Ice had formed in the deep ruts of the road that pitches for four miles down through the steep ravine of Osgood Brook. Tires would not hold. To turn out was impossible. With all brakes set, our car slid down-hill for nearly a mile.

"Lucky we didn't meet someone coming up," observed Bond, as we drew into the little settlement by Wendell Depot.

"Maybe the jinx has left us," we said. "So let's try Warwick."

From a 1924 newspaper in the Wendell Historical Society collection.

FOR SALE

Antique banjo, dated 1888

32 cu. ft. Sears model freezer, 2 yrs. old, still under guarantee, holds 1,000 lb. $300.

Antique bathroom dry sink, carved wood

Diamond ring, $38.

Antique Wire Purse, $20.

call 544-6466

Police Log

1-13-78 Carol Carey's house broken into.

****

BALLOUS FEEDS

- 50# SUNFLOWER SEEDS $10.00
- BLUE SEAL GRAINS
- FARM SUPPLIES
- PURINA DOG + CAT CHOW $8.59

ORANGE MA. 4-2158

Social Notes

Golden Agers

Twenty Golden Agers feasted at a Christmas turkey dinner with all the fixings on Wednesday the 14th at noon in the Town Hall. Table arrangements were made by Edna Burton , Maurice Lauro, Betty and Bill Thompson. Guests present were Florence Moore of Greenfield, Edna Burton of New York City and Ida Sherman from Orange. Christmas carols were sung after the dinner with Ida Sherman playing the accordian. Gifts were exchanged. Prizes which consisted of four lovely hand crocheted centerpeice baskets were made and donated by Edna Burton . The winners were Agnes Telling, Romeo Caron, Pearl Hall and Nettie Cole. The next meeting will be on Wed. January 11.

Overdue Library Books Recalled

The Wendell Free Library is requesting the return of all books not issued within the last month. An alarming number of books are overdue and thus unavailable to the public. Of special concern are overdue books which have been loaned to the local library by the Western Regional Public Library System because many of these books are being asked for by other libraries within the state.

Wendell Free Library patrons are encouraged to make use of the book return on the porch of the library. No fine will be charged for books brought back. A full list of all books loaned to each patron is available at the library.

Bert Goddard

Rubert Goddard is recovering well from his recent surgery. Although his physical activity is still limited, he says that he "feels good."

Bert has expressed his gratitude for the thoughts and assistance people showed him during his hospital stay and recuperation. He has said " I didn't realize how many friends I had."

During the holidays, Rubert stayed with his long-time friends, the Hansons of New Salem. He is now staying at home until he is given the o.k. to return to work.

****

MARRIAGES: Carl Goodman and Georgia Sexton
Dec. 30th

Paul Diemand and Linda Senn
Jan. 1st

BIRTHS: Amy Elizabeth Golding, Jan. 12, 1978
Daughter of William Golding, Jr. and Elizabeth Jane (Nuttelman) Golding of Jennison Rd.

A son was born Jan 5, 1978 to Daniel Hughes and Elizabeth Hurd of Locke Hill Rd.

****

Congratulations to Priscilla Wright and Chris Lynch on the birth of their son. Jessie James Lynch was born on November 27, 1977.

Ladies aid

Members of the Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. Gladys Powling for a Christmas party on Dec. 8th. A delicious buffet supper was served and gifts were exchanged. Final plans were made for the annual Children's Christmas party. The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 P.M.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The Ladies Aid would like to express their thanks to all who helped in any way to make the Chilren's Christmas Party a success. A special thanks to the Wendell Firemen's Association who decorated the Christmas tree so beautifully. Also to Mrs. Ida Sherman for her musical accompaniment, to John Knechtel (our Santa) from West Orange Pole and Carol Carey for helping Santa, to Al Diemand for running the films and to the Girl Scouts and Brownies for singing the carols.

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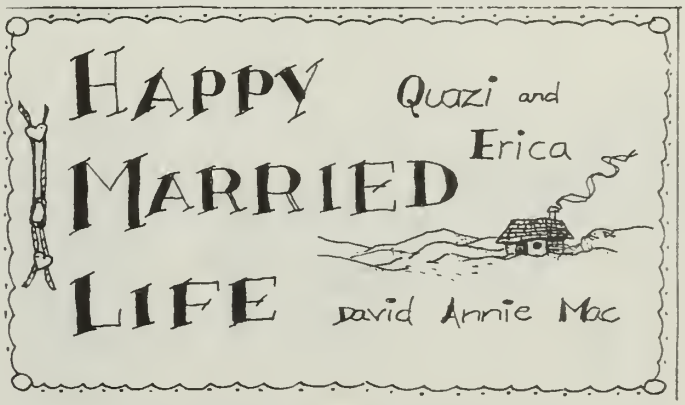

Posting Place

FILM SCHEDULE

The 1978 Film Series sponsored by the Wendell Free Library, with films obtained free of charge from the Western Regional Library System, is being held at the Town Hall, Wednesdays at 7:00 each week. A small donation will be accepted to help defray cost of utilities for the Town.

Feb. 1 "The Magic Fountain"
A Grimm Bros. fairy tale filmed in the Black Forest of Bavaria
"A Chairy Tale" -humorous short

Feb. 8 "Man Who Knew Too Much"
Alfred Hitchcock Film
"Cornet at Night" -short

Feb. 15 "The Outlaw"
Western about Billy the Kid
"The End and the Beginning"-short

Feb. 22 "Northwest Passage"
With Spencer Tracy & Robert Young
about the French and Indian War

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OUTDOOR BURNING NOW LEGAL

This is the season for lawful outdoor burning! This period extends from Jan. 15 through March 15. People wishing to burn, call for a permit at 4-6951 during the week, and 4-3494 during the weekend. Burning times are from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., fires to be out by 4 P.M.

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Chief Everett Ricketts attended a seminar on wood stoves held at U. Mass on Jan. 27th. For questions pertaining to wood heating, call 4-3494.

More on this next issue.

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1978 Census in Progress

The 1978 Street List and School Census is presently being conducted, as required by law. Census-takers appointed by Clerk Hartjens are Kathy Becker and Anne Diemand.

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Found--A woman's ring after Purple House's 4th of July party. Call Kathy, 4-7432.

Rural Art Program

The New Salem - Wendell Rural Arts Program will offer adult evening classes at the Swift River School on Wednesday and Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 15. Classes will include guitar, quilting, folkdancing, weaving, drawing, yoga, and a mini-craft course. The average cost for a 2 hour class for 7 weeks will be $16.00 plus materials. A $1.00 registration fee will also be required. Registration for these courses will take place on Feb. 9-11. On Saturday evening, Feb. 11, there will be a film program with cider and popcorn on sale at the Swift River School. Those people attending the film will have last opportunity to register. The Rural Arts Program will be mailing to each New Salem-Wendell household a registration form and further details on the courses offered.

For more information, please contact Pat Judice at 544-3529.

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The first successful programs of the newly-formed Rural Arts Program held at Swift River School have concluded. Children attending the program were exposed to two fascinating and popular art forms. They participated in learning experiences in pottery and puppetry. Lyn Harrod's group worked with clay to fashion small bells, flower holders, and other objects. The school kiln was used to fire these works during the six session course. Sarah Elston worked with a group of children making puppets with paper mache heads and original clothing. A puppet show ended the three week course.

The Rural Arts Program began in October 1977 with a grant received from the Art's Extension Service in Amherst. It offers stimulating art programs to the residents of Wendell and New Salem. Information about the program may be obtained from Pat Judice by calling (617)-544-3529.

CARPENTRY & SNOW PLOWING

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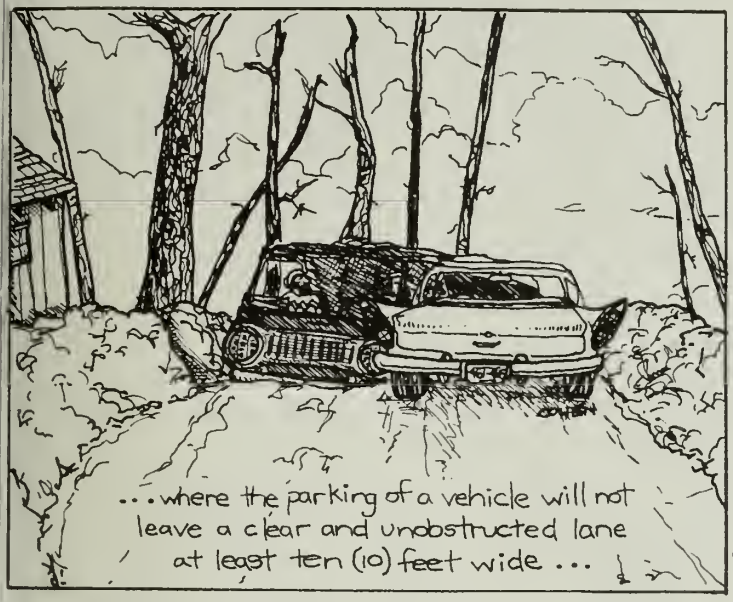

PARKING

Section 1. General Prohibitions.
No person shall stand or park and no person shall allow, permit or suffer any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in any of the following places:
(a) Within an intersection.
(b) Upon any sidewalk.
(c) Upon any crosswalk.
(d) Upon the roadway in a rural or sparsely settled district.
(e) Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, except those streets which are designated as one-way street. On such one-way streets vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches of the curb.
(f) Upon any roadway where the parking of a vehicle will not leave a clear and unobstructed lane at least ten (10) feet wide for passing traffic.
(g) Upon any street or highway within five (5) feet of a fire hydrant.
(h) In front of any private road or driveway.

SUNSET MOTORS LTD
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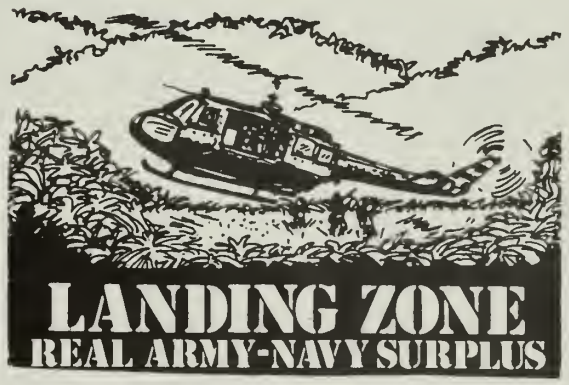


25 KING ST.
NPTN, MA.
01061
(413) 584-1373
11 CHAPMAN ST.
GNFIELD, MA.
01301
(413) 774-3472

Help Wanted: Reporters

The Wendell Post needs reporters. If you have as little as an hour a week to contribute you could help to gather news so the Wendell Post can get that news to everyone in town.

Are you a Wendell citizen? Do you serve on a local committee or organization? Do you have a pet project you would like to see done in Town? Do you have a special interest you would like to share with your fellow citizens?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, then you can be a reporter for the Wendell Post. Please contact us and make arrangements to help us get the news out. Call: Anne Diemand at 4-2762.

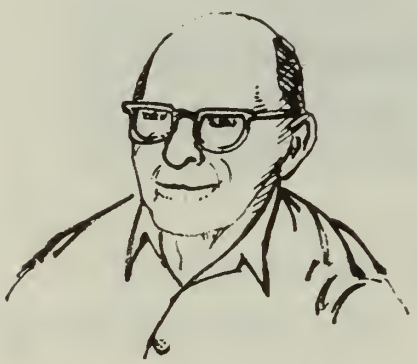
BALLOU'S
PKG & GROCERY
STORE
SOUTH MAIN ST. WENDELL, MA.

PRESS
Wendell Post
Reporter

Harry Thayer Celebrates 88th

HARRY THAYER TO CELEBRATE 88TH BIRTHDAY

One of Wendell's favorite sons, Harry Thayer, will soon mark the occasion of his 88th year. Probably there is no one who has resided in Wendell for more than three years who does not have a special reason to think fondly of Harry Thayer. Harry Thayer was present and busy on the scene at almost every gathering of the townspeople until stricken and partially paralyzed by a stoke three years ago.



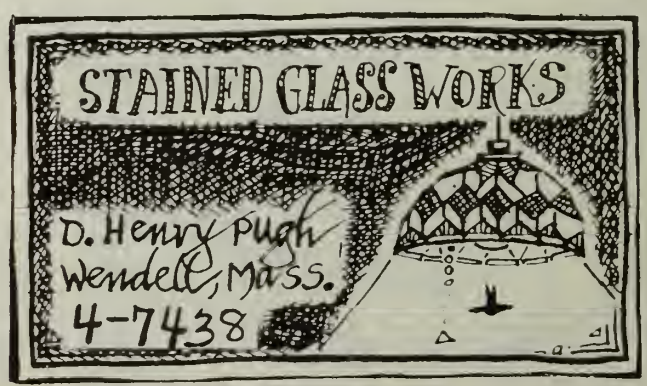
In a recent interview, Winona Ballou recalled that she first met Harry Thayer before she was married, which was 37 years ago this month. He soon became "like family" to the Ballous. On his 80th birthday, Winny wrote a piece for the Greenfield paper from which the following excerpts were taken.

"Born in Palmer, February 11, 1890, he grew up never knowing his parents or any relatives. He came to Wendell at 20 years, leaving town at intervals for employment, but always returned to Wendell where he maintained his residence."

" He has held several town positions through the years including those of highway superintendent, board of public welfare, sealer of weights and measures, moderator, forest warden, cemetery commissioner, and custodian of Wendell Center School, from which he resigned in 1969. He has been an active member of the Wendell Volunteer Fire Department since it was first organized in 1956."

"He was a star route mail carrier for several years and a member of the Orange Postal Employees Mutual Benefit Association. He is a member of the Wendell Center Church, on the board of trustees and superintendent of the Sunday School. It is mainly through his untiring effort that the Church has remained open."

"Through the years Thayer has been a man who asks nothing but gives all. One of the widest used phrases in the Town of Wendell is "Ask Harry", whether you want an errand run, a babysitter or just a good friend to tell your troubles to, and he has always been known to respond, as the one word that is not in the dictionary of Harry Thayer's is the word "no"."

Now Harry must depend on friends to keep him informed about Wendell doings. Although the stroke deprived him of the ability to speak without effort, Winny says that he loves to see people and to find out what is going on.

Harry's address is: Franklin Nursing Home, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, Mass. 01301